



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

23RD JANUARY 2020

NATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICE WALES ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR CHRISTINA LEYSHON

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to share with the Cabinet the National Adoption Service Wales Annual Report 2018-2019

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The report attached at Appendix 1 is the National Adoption Service for Wales Annual Report, that as part of Regulation 22 of the Local Authority Adoption Service (Wales) Regulations 2007 and Section 15(c) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Joint Adoption Regulations)(Wales) Directions 2015, is required to be brought before Cabinet.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The National Adoption Service for Wales (NAS) was launched in November 2014 bringing all local authorities in Wales together into a unique collaboration for the delivery of adoption services. The legal basis underpinning the service is the Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) which gave Welsh Ministers the power to direct how local authorities in Wales deliver their adoption functions. This was enforced through a set of regulations, The Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Joint Adoption Arrangements) (Wales) Directions 2015 [generally referred

to as the 'Directions Powers'], which require local authorities to collaborate on a set foot print to create Regional Adoption Collaborative.

4.2 The National Service establishes governance arrangements that provide national direction and co-ordination. Its broad aim is to improve and make consistent the arrangements for timely placements of children, training and assessment of adopters, adoption support and collaborative working.

4.3 The attached Annual Plan sets out the work undertaken by the National Adoption Service Wales in 2018-2019

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This is an information report and, therefore, no Equality and Diversity screening is required.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation was undertaken by the National Adoption Service Wales in the preparation of the Annual Plan with children, young people, families, a variety of partner agencies and staff from the Regional Services.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

7.1 There are no adverse financial implications associated with this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014) required very significant changes to the way social services are planned, designed, commissioned and delivered. The primary duties of this Act that impact on the future commissioning arrangements for children looked after include:

- promoting the upbringing of children within their family whenever it is safe to do so;
- consideration of the most appropriate placement where it has not been possible to place a looked after child either with a parent or connected person which will include: foster care; adoption; residential provision; alternative arrangements (for example, supporting young people aged 16 or over to live independently in rented accommodation or in supported lodgings).

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN/OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

9.1 The provision of effective responses to the needs of children and young people is a key priority for the Council and is supported by the contents of this Annual Plan.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 Overall there was a slight increase in the number of children placed for adoption.
- 10.2 The recruitment of adoptive parents remained at a similar level to last year. Therefore, recruiting sufficient adopters in Wales continues to be an ongoing challenge.
- 10.3 The Welsh Government investment package of £2.3 million for 2019/2020 will support the identified priorities to be taken forward and implemented which should result in improved performance.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Children and Young People

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AS AMENDED BY
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
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Background Papers

None

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